

10-5497



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
WASHINGTON HEADQUARTERS
1608 K STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

July 15, 1958

Honorable Allen E. Dulles, Director
Central Intelligence Agency
2430 E Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

When the 12th annual session of Girls Nation convenes in Washington July 26 - August 1, one of its first tasks will be to establish its model government complete with elected and appointed officials.

In anticipation of that event, I wonder if you would be kind enough to write -- in advance, and to a young lady whose name is not yet known to us -- a personal note of congratulations upon her succession to the office in Girls Nation that is equivalent to yours in Federal government.

Such a letter should be postdated to July 29, 1958 (the date on which the Girls Nation elections and appointments will take place) but it could be mailed to this office as early as you like. We would hold it here to be delivered to the young lady upon the proper occasion. If you would care to leave the salutatory address blank, we would be happy to fill in the girl's name as soon as that is known.

Admittedly this is an unusual request but to try to collect such letters from many government officials in the few days between the time the girls take office and the conclusion of Girls Nation would be a hopeless task. On the other hand, such letters have the effect of vividly portraying government as a cooperative undertaking between real persons rather than just a dry table of organization on paper. Armed with a personal message from you, your young protege would feel that she had a very special honor to carry home with her.

Sincerely,

LAYTON K. HURST, Director
Washington Office

FOR: Mrs. J. Pat Kelly, National President
Mrs. Herbert A. Smith, Girls Nation Director

LKH:wh
Enclosure

Approved For Release 2002/07/29 : CIA-RDP80B01676R003800080041-0
FROM: Washington Office, American Legion Auxiliary
1608 K Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. (EXecutive 3-4811 Ext. 61, 62)

1958 GIRLS NATION

Girls Nation is a program held in Washington, D.C., each summer to give high school juniors (two from each state, the District of Columbia and the Panama Canal Zone) a better understanding of the processes of citizenship and government.

It is a culmination of 50 Girls States held each June or July at state capitols or centrally located college campuses for thousands of teen-agers who are eager to learn about city, county and state government. They are sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, with the cooperation of the schools, and church and civic groups.

From each Girls State, two outstanding girls are selected to represent their state at Girls Nation, also sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary, where they study federal government.

The Girls Nation program, held at American University July 26 to August 1, 1958, will include speeches from top government officials and representatives of the nation's two leading political parties. The girls will divide into political parties of their own, hold conventions, write platforms, conduct campaigns and have an election. Their elected candidates will form a model government and appoint officials who will then practice putting that government into efficient operation.

The girls will tour the White House and learn first-hand how the national government functions through briefing sessions on Capitol Hill and at various government Departments, including Justice, Defense and State.

This fall, when the girls are seniors in high school, they will report to their classmates and to community organizations on what they experienced and learned as delegates to Girls Nation.

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